

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 602**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Torlakson**

February 19, 1999

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An act to amend Section 35790.1 of, and to add Section 35790.3 to, the Vehicle Code, relating to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 602, as introduced, Torlakson. Manufactured homes: pilot car operators.

Existing law establishes specific conditions and specifications applicable to the movement of manufactured homes that are 14 feet to 16 feet in total width, and specifically prohibits the Department of Transportation from issuing a permit to move a manufactured home that is in excess of 14 feet in total width unless the department determines that all of those specified conditions and specifications have been met. For these purposes, existing law also requires the department, in cooperation with the Department of the California Highway Patrol, or the local authority, to require pilot car or special escort services for the movement of any manufactured housing unit pursuant to these provisions.

This bill, in addition, would require the department, in cooperation with the Department of the California Highway Patrol, to establish a voluntary program for training the operators of pilot cars, that escort these manufactured homes transported on state highways, in traffic safety control techniques. The department would be required to begin the program no later than July 1, 2000, and would be authorized

to charge a fee for the traffic safety control training under the program.

The bill also would authorize the party responsible for transporting the manufactured home to select either the Department of the California Highway Patrol or an escort service that is trained and certified under the program described above when pilot car or special escort services are required.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 35790.1 of the Vehicle Code is  
2 amended to read:

3 35790.1. In addition to the requirements and  
4 conditions contained in Section 35790 and  
5 notwithstanding any other provision of law, all of the  
6 following conditions and specifications shall be complied  
7 with to move any manufactured home, as defined in  
8 Section 18007 of the Health and Safety Code, that is in  
9 excess of 14 feet in total width, but not exceeding 16 feet  
10 in total width, exclusive of lights and devices provided for  
11 in Sections 35109; *and* 35110; ~~and 35112~~, upon any  
12 highway under the jurisdiction of the entity granting the  
13 permit:

14 (a) For the purposes of width requirements under this  
15 code, the overall width of manufactured housing  
16 specified in this section shall be the overall width,  
17 including roof overhang, eaves, window shades, porch  
18 roofs, or any other part of the manufactured house that  
19 cannot be removed for the purposes of transporting upon  
20 any highway.

21 (b) Unless otherwise exempted under this code, all  
22 combinations of motor vehicles and manufactured  
23 housing shall be equipped with service brakes on all  
24 wheels. Service brakes required under this subdivision  
25 shall be adequate, supplemental to the brakes on the  
26 towing vehicle, to enable the combination of vehicles to

1 comply with the stopping distance requirements of  
2 Section 26454.

3 (c) In addition to the requirements contained in  
4 Section 26304, the breakaway brake device on any  
5 manufactured housing unit equipped with electric  
6 brakes shall be powered by a wet cell rechargeable  
7 battery that is of the same voltage rating as the brakes and  
8 has sufficient charge to hold the brakes applied for not  
9 less than 15 minutes.

10 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code,  
11 the weight imposed upon any tire, wheel, axle, drawbar,  
12 hitch, or other suspension component on a manufactured  
13 housing unit shall not exceed the manufacturer's  
14 maximum weight rating for the item or component.

15 (e) In addition to the requirements in subdivision (d),  
16 the maximum allowable weight upon one manufactured  
17 housing unit axle shall not exceed 6,000 pounds, and the  
18 maximum allowable weight upon one manufactured  
19 housing unit wheel shall not exceed 3,000 pounds.

20 (f) Manufactured housing unit tires shall be free from  
21 defects, have at least  $\frac{2}{32}$  of an inch tread depth, as  
22 determined by tire tread wear indicators, and shall  
23 comply with specifications and requirements contained  
24 in Section 3280.904(b)(8) of Title 24 of the Code of  
25 Federal Regulations.

26 (g) Manufactured housing unit manufacturers shall  
27 provide transporters with a certification of compliance  
28 document, certifying the manufactured housing unit  
29 complies with the specifications and requirements  
30 contained in subdivisions (d), (e), and (f). Each  
31 certification of compliance document shall identify, by  
32 serial or identification number, the specific  
33 manufactured housing unit being transported and shall  
34 be signed by a representative of the manufacturer. Each  
35 transporter of manufactured housing units shall have in  
36 his or her immediate possession a copy of the certification  
37 of compliance document and shall make the document  
38 available upon request by any member of the  
39 Department of the California Highway Patrol, any  
40 authorized employee of the Department of

1 Transportation, or any regularly employed and salaried  
2 municipal police officer or deputy sheriff.

3 (h) Manufactured housing unit dealers shall provide  
4 transporters with a certification of compliance  
5 document, specifying that all modifications, equipment  
6 additions, or loading changes by the dealer have not  
7 exceeded the gross vehicle weight rating of the  
8 manufactured housing unit or the axle and wheel  
9 requirements contained in subdivisions (d), (e), and (f).  
10 Each certification of compliance document shall identify,  
11 by serial or identification number, the specific  
12 manufactured housing unit being transported and shall  
13 be signed by a representative of the dealer. Each  
14 transporter of manufactured housing units shall have in  
15 his or her immediate possession a copy of the certification  
16 of compliance document and shall make the document  
17 available upon request by any member of the  
18 Department of the California Highway Patrol, any  
19 authorized employee of the Department of  
20 Transportation, or any regularly employed and salaried  
21 municipal police officer or deputy sheriff.

22 (i) Transporters of manufactured housing units shall  
23 not transport any additional load in, or upon, the  
24 manufactured housing unit that has not been certified by  
25 the manufactured housing unit's manufacturer or dealer.

26 (j) Every hitch, coupling device, drawbar, or other  
27 connections between the towing unit and the towed  
28 manufactured housing unit shall be securely attached and  
29 shall comply with Subpart J of Part 3280 of Title 24 of the  
30 Code of Federal Regulations.

31 (k) Manufactured housing units shall be equipped  
32 with an identification plate, specifying the  
33 manufacturer's name, the manufactured housing unit's  
34 serial number, the gross vehicle weight rating of the  
35 manufactured housing unit, and the gross weight of the  
36 cargo that may be transported in or upon the  
37 manufactured housing unit without exceeding the gross  
38 vehicle weight rating. The identification plate shall be  
39 permanently attached to the manufactured housing unit  
40 and shall be positioned adjacent to, and meet the same

1 specifications and requirements applicable to, the  
2 certification label required by Subpart A of Part 3280 of  
3 Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

4 (l) Manufactured housing units shall be subject to all  
5 lighting requirements contained in Sections 24603, 24607,  
6 24608, and 24951. When transported during darkness,  
7 manufactured housing units shall additionally be subject  
8 to Sections 24600 and 25100.

9 (m) Manufactured housing units shall have all open  
10 sides covered by plywood, hard board, or other rigid  
11 material, or by other suitable plastics or flexible material.  
12 Plastic or flexible side coverings shall not billow or flap in  
13 excess of six inches in any one place. Units that are opened  
14 on both sides may be transported empty with no side  
15 coverings.

16 (n) Transporters of manufactured housing units shall  
17 make available all permits, licenses, certificates, forms,  
18 and any other relative document required for the  
19 transportation of manufactured housing upon request by  
20 any member of the Department of the California  
21 Highway Patrol, any authorized employee of the  
22 Department of Transportation, or any regularly  
23 employed and salaried municipal police officer or deputy  
24 sheriff.

25 (o) (1) The Department of Transportation, in  
26 cooperation with the Department of the California  
27 Highway Patrol, or the local authority, shall require pilot  
28 car or special escort services for the movement of any  
29 manufactured housing unit pursuant to this section, and  
30 may establish additional reasonable permit regulations,  
31 including special routing requirements, as necessary in  
32 the interest of public safety and consistent with this  
33 section. *For purposes of this subdivision, "pilot car or*  
34 *special escort services" means either the Department of*  
35 *the California Highway Patrol, or pilot car operators who*  
36 *have been certified by the Department of Transportation*  
37 *as having received and successfully completed the*  
38 *training required pursuant to Section 35790.3.*

39 (2) *The party responsible for transporting the*  
40 *manufactured home may select either the Department of*

1 *the California Highway Patrol or a certified escort service*  
2 *whenever the pilot car or special escort services are*  
3 *required as a condition of receiving a permit pursuant to*  
4 *this section.*

5 (p) The Department of Transportation shall not issue  
6 a permit to move a manufactured home that is in excess  
7 of 14 feet in total width unless that department  
8 determines that all of the conditions and specifications set  
9 forth in this section have been met.

10 SEC. 2. Section 35790.3 is added to the Vehicle Code,  
11 to read:

12 35790.3. (a) The Department of Transportation, in  
13 cooperation with the Department of the California  
14 Highway Patrol, shall establish a voluntary program for  
15 training the operators of pilot cars, that escort  
16 manufactured homes transported on state highways  
17 pursuant to Sections 35790 and 35790.1, in traffic safety  
18 control techniques. The department shall develop a  
19 curriculum and administer the training program so that  
20 these participating escort service operators who  
21 complete the training can ensure that the movement of  
22 manufactured homes that exceed 14 feet in width on state  
23 highways is performed in a manner that protects public  
24 safety. The training program shall begin no later than July  
25 1, 2000.

26 (b) The department may charge a fee for the traffic  
27 safety control training, which shall be sufficient to cover  
28 the actual cost of providing the training.

